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the reference that's in this 79...Section 79-852, 851, and 850. Let's see. The terms proposed in this amendment are no more onerous than the obligations that have been applicable in other voluntary mergers over the years. These individuals that we are talking about often times are women who are tied to the geographic locations, their husbands either farm or ranch there, they have established businesses there, they simply can't pick up roots and find a job in another district quite some distance away. The only thing this amendment does is that the teachers would be treated equally in the Class Is that are moving into the receiving district, on the same level as the receiving district. The amendment itself was drafted by Senator McKenzie, who may be able to answer some more of the technical questions regarding this amendment. But I do believe that when we talk about mergers and consolidations, et cetera, that we ought to be cognizant of the educators involved that will be affected by this bill. Their commitment to education, I think, should be recognized. And that when we do talk about the property tax reduction, we certainly have in (LB) 806A a \$100 million appropriation, that's why I believe that there is room to consider the welfare and the status and the standing of our educators who are presently teaching in Class Is. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. There were ten lights on previous to Senator Hilgert's opening on his amendment, individuals, I believe, wanting to address either the bill or the committee amendments in general. Rather than go through that list, I will be clearing the list and ask you to renew your light if you wish to speak to the Hilgert amendment. Senator Dierks, you'd be recognized to speak to the Hilgert amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body. I do have several things about the Hilgert amendment, but I also had some things about the bill that I need to make clear from the outset. I have a great deal of difficulty with this legislation. I think that it's difficult for me to understand why a legislative body would try to do things to urban...or rural students that are not...that are not in bearing with what Nebraska Legislature should be doing. This is...this is an opportunity, I think, for us to show statesmanship, to try to come back and provide the help for these smaller schools and